

1. In response to your objection to the drawings

We accepted the objection and submitted a new set of drawing sheets for your review.

2. In response to your rejection to Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 6 is cancelled. See claim list in the last part of this response.

3. In response to your rejection to Claim 1, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,503,502 to Chapin (“Chapin”).

Claims 1, 6, and 7 are cancelled. See claim list in the last part of this response.

4. In response to your rejection to Claim 1- 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 2,169,696 to Hotchkiss (“Hotchkiss”).

There were errors in your understanding about Hotchkiss’s patent, and those errors led you to the conclusion that this application was anticipated by Hotchkiss. What Hotchkiss disclosed is an automatic heat supply system, which, in responding to the temperature of the environment where the temperature measuring device is placed, is able to self-adjust its valve’s position to alter the amount of gas supplied to a heater.

Error 1: The electro-magnetic objects/magnets (54,34,36), mentioned in the Office action (on page 4), is merely the force-generating source to alter the valves (22). In another view, these parts together (54, 22) compose the essential part of an electro-magnetic valve system, a term used in this application under review. The term “magnet(s),” used in the application under review, however, is an additional magnetic object, which most likely is permanent magnet(s), attached to a person (chef).

Error 2: The statement in the Office action (on page 4), “... a magnetic detecting device that includes a switch (see at least page 4, lines 21-54)”, is not correct. There is no magnetic DETECTING device in Hotchkiss. In fact, each magnet in all claims of

Hotchkiss refers to electro-magnet. As stated in the above paragraph, the electro-magnet (54) is the force-generating part of an electro-magnetic valve system. In Hotchkiss, the sensor is a thermostat, consisting of bimetallic elements and contracts (180, 182, 184, 186 in Fig. 12). It is the thermostat that detects the temperature of surrounding environment, and then turns on or off the electro-magnetic valve system to alter the amount of gas supplied to a heater.

In the application under review, a magnetic detecting sensor is used. When a person (chef) wearing a magnet pad stands close to the detecting sensor, the sensor triggers an electro-magnetic valve system to open the valve and allow the gas to flow through. When the person stands away from the detecting sensor, the electro-magnetic valve system closes the valve so that no gas passes by. It is the essence and advantage of the invention for a person to use a magnet pad to operate a gas burner instead of doing it manually, especially during the busiest working period in a restaurant. Such feature is not present in Hotchkiss and such proposed purpose cannot be achieved by Hotchkiss' invention.

In addition, Hotchkiss stated clearly in the claims, "... means responsive to a heater condition ..." (claim 1, 12, 27-29) and "a thermostat" (claims 2-4, 8, 9, 14, 15, 23-26). Such declaration limits its application in temperature responding heater control. In this application under review, magnet sensor is a mean for the device to determine how close a person is standing by and to make necessary response accordingly. Since the temperature-detecting sensor is essential for Hotchkiss and is not present in the application under review, both devices are structurally different and functionally unexchangeable.

Taken together, this application is not anticipated by Hotchkiss.

5. The feature of magnet-sensor controlling of a gas burner in this application can not be found in EP 0 635 680, cited in the Office action. And it is not covered in JP 60-66715, based on its figures.

6. We request to amend claims 2-5 as following:

Claim 2. (currently amended) An apparatus, for controlling gas in a gas burner used for stir-fry cooking to achieve a desirable timing and volume of heat, is operated either manually or automatically, comprising:

- a. a heater;
- b. a manual means to control gas supply to said heater;
- c. a non-manual means to control gas supply to said heater;
- d. a controlling means, responsive to a user's position, to control said non-manual means.

Claim 3. (currently amended). The said non-manual means in claim 2, comprising:

- a. an electromagnet;
- b. a valve, controlled by said electromagnet, to control gas supply to said heater.

Claim 4. (currently amended). The said controlling means in claim 2, comprising:

- a. a magnetic object, attached to said user;
- b. a sensor board responsive to said magnetic object;
- c. a relay, responsive to said sensor board, to control said non-manual means.

Claim 5. (currently amended). The said magnetic object in claim 4, comprising at least one magnet.

7. We request to add claims 8-17 as following:

Claim 8 (new). The said sensor board in claim 4, comprising at least one magnetic detecting means.

Claim 9 (new). The said magnetic detecting means in claim 8, comprising at least one reed switch.

Claim 10 (new). The said manual means in claim 2, comprising:

- a. a handle operated by said user's hand;
- b. a valve, controlled by said handle, to control gas supply to said heater.

Claim 11 (new). An apparatus, for controlling gas in a gas burner used for stir-fry cooking to achieve a desirable timing and volume of heat, is operated either manually or automatically, comprising:

- a. a heater;
- b. a manual means to control gas supply to said heater;
- c. an electromagnetic valve to control gas supply to said heater;
- d. a magnet-controlling means, responsive to a user's position, to control said electromagnetic valve.

Claim 12 (new). The said magnet-controlling means in claim 11, comprising:

- a. a magnetic object, attached to said user;
- b. a sensor board responsive to said magnetic object;
- c. a relay, responsive to said sensor board, to control said non-manual means.

Claim 13 (new). The said magnetic object in claim 12, comprising at least one magnet.

Claim 14 (new). The said sensor board in claim 12, comprising at least one magnetic detecting means.

Claim 15 (new). The said magnetic detecting means in claim 14, comprising at least one reed switch.

Claim 16 (new). The said manual means in claim 11, comprising:

- a. a handle operated by said user's hand;
- b. a valve, controlled by said handle, to control gas supply to said heater.

Claim 17 (new). A stir-fry cooking system, comprising at least one apparatus in claim 2.